

*At page 4, before line 27, insert the following new paragraph.*

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1: Map of the plasmid pCR2.1 luxSint.

The abbreviations and designations used have the following meaning.

KmR:	Kanamycin resistance gene
EcoRI:	Cleavage site of the restriction enzyme EcoRI
PstI:	Cleavage site of the restriction enzyme PstI
Sall:	Cleavage site of the restriction enzyme Sall
luxSint:	Internal fragment of the luxS gene
ColE1:	Replication origin of the plasmid ColE1.--

*At page 26, line 10, delete to end of page.*

**IN THE CLAIMS**

*Please cancel claims 1-19, without prejudice.*

*Please add the following new claims 20-42.*

20. (New) An isolated polynucleotide native to the genus *Corynebacterium*, which is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

21. (New) An isolated polynucleotide native to the genus *Corynebacterium*, which is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

22. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claims 20 or 21, wherein said polynucleotide is native to the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

23. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

24. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA.

25. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is a RNA.